

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01

ACDA-10 PM-03 NSC-05 SS-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 MC-02

L-02 H-02 CAB-05 DOTE-00 FAA-00 /102 W

----- 106337

P R 300915Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2328

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

UNCLAS THESSALONIKI 0276

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: PINT, MARR, ELAB, GR

SUBJECT: THESSALONIKI PRESS SUMMARY, APRIL 30

1. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF THESSALONIKI
PRESS OF APRIL 30 WHICH ARE REPORTED IN LIGHT OF
STRIKE BY MAJOR ATHENS DAILIES.

2. MAJOR ITEM IS JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON STATUS OF
US BASES IN GREECE AND HOMEPORTING. HEADLINES OF
BOTH MORNING PAPERS HIGHLIGHT CLOSURE OF HELLINIKON
AIR BASE, TERMINATION OF HOMEPORTING AT ELEFSIS,
AND GREEK ADMINISTRATION OF UNSPECIFIED OTHER US
FACILITIES. TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE FRONTPAGED WITHOUT
EDITORIAL COMMENT HERE.

3. APRIL 29 EXLOSION AT BODOSAKIS MUNITIONS PLANT AT LAVRION
ALSO GIVEN HEAVY COVERAGE. BLAST FROM UNKNOWN
CAUSE RESULTED IN 3 DEATHS, 60 INJURIES AND HEAVY
DAMAGES TO PLANT. CASUALTY LIST INCLUDES AT LEAST
10 MUSLIM NAMES. RELEASE NOTES THAT, WHILE SABOTAGE
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UNLIKELY, FULL INVESTIGATION OF POSSIBILITY IS NOW

UNDERWAY.

4. ALL PAPERS CARRY BRIEF FRONT PAGE DENIAL BY PASOK HEADQUARTERS OF RUMORS CIRCULATING RE AN ALLEGED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT IN ATHENS AGAINST PARTY LEADER PAPANDREOU. ACCORDING TO STATEMENT, "MALICIOUS" RUMORS WERE CIRCULATED TO "UPSET GREEK PEOPLE AND SERVE FOREIGN INTERESTS".

5. "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" FRONTPAGES AN ATHENS NEWS AGENCY REPORT FROM WASHINGTON THAT PRESIDENT FORD WILL SOON REQUEST APPROPRIATION OF DOLLARS 155 MILLION FOR GREECE AND DOLLARS 180 MILLION FOR TURKEY IN GRANTS AND LOANS. REPORT NOTES THAT FIGURE FOR GREECE WOULD BE DOLLARS 70 MILLION INCREASE OVER CURRENT ALLOCATION FOR WEAPONS PURCHASES AND, IF APPROVED, GRANT PORTION WOULD BE FIRST GRANT MILITARY AID TO GREECE IN TWO YEARS.

6. BOTH PAPERS PUBLISH BRIEF FRONTPAGE STATEMENT FROM UNIDENTIFIED GOG SPOKESMAN IN ATHENS THAT PM KARAMANLIS HAS NOT YET DECIDED TO ATTEND MAY NATO SUMMIT IN BRUSSELS, BECAUSE HE IS "UNINFORMED" RE AGENDA. REPORT CONCLUDES THAT IF KARAMANLIS DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN SUMMIT, MEETINGS WITH HEADS OF OTHER DELEGATIONS, AS WELL AS TURKISH PM DEMIREL, WOULD BE "NATURAL". "MAKEDONIA" HEADLINE FOR ABOVE RELEASE REPORTS THAT "INFORMATION ABOUT KARAMANLIS MEETING WITH FORD IS PREMATURE", ALTHOUGH THIS SUBJECT NOT TREATED IN TEXT.

7. "MAKEDONIA" REPORTS THAT DECISION BY ATHENS APPEALS COURT IS EXPECTED APRIL 30 ON WHETHER TO ISSUE INDICTMENTS AGAINST 104 FORMER CABINET MINISTERS UNDER MILITARY REGIME. ACCORDING TO ACCOUNT, COURT WILL RULE SPECIFICALLY WHETHER "HIGH TREASON" OF APRIL 21 MILITARY COUP SHOULD BE CONSIDERED "ONE TIME" OR "CONTINUOUS", THEREBY REQUIRING PROSECUTION OF MEMBERS OF "ALL DICTATORSHIP CABINETS".

8. BOTH PAPERS REPORT THAT OLYMPIC PILOT STRIKE WILL RESUME FOR FURTHER 48-HOUR PERIOD BEGINNING
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MAY 2 TO PROTEST GOG INACTION ON PENDING DEMANDS. IF NEW STRIKE MATERIALIZES, ALL DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN OLYMPIC FLIGHTS WILL BE CANCELLED OVER GREEK EASTER WEEKEND.
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